

50 years after Nixon visit, U.S.-China ties as fraught as ever

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — At the height of the Cold War, U.S. President Richard Nixon flew into communist China's center of power for a visit that, over time, would transform U.S.-China relations and China's position in the world in ways that were unimaginable at the time. The relationship between China and the United States was always going to be a challenge, and after half a century of ups and downs, is more fraught than ever. The Cold War is long over, but on both sides there are fears a new one could be beginning. Despite repeated Chinese disavowals, America worries that the democratic-led world that triumphed over the Soviet Union could be challenged by the authoritarian model of a powerful and still-rising China. "The U.S.-China relationship has always been contentious but one of necessity," said Oriana Skylar Mastro, a China expert at Stanford University. "Perhaps 50 years ago the reasons were mainly economic. Now they are mainly in the security realm. But the relationship has never — and will never — be easy." Nixon landed in Beijing on a gray winter morning 50 years ago on Monday. Billboards carried slogans such as "Down with American Imperialism," part of the upheaval under the Cultural Revolution that banished intellectuals and others to the countryside and subjected many to public humiliation and brutal and even deadly attacks in the name of class struggle.

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Then Chinese communist party leader Mao Zedong, left, and then U.S. President Richard Nixon shake hands as they meet in Beijing on Feb. 21, 1972.

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50 years after Nixon visit, U.S.-China ties as fraught as ever

Continued from Front

Nixon's 1972 trip, which included meetings with Chairman Mao Zedong and a visit to the Great Wall, led to the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979 and the parallel severing of formal ties with Taiwan, which the U.S. had recognized as the government of China after the communists took power in Beijing in 1949.

Premier Zhou Enlai's translator wrote in a memoir that, to the best of his recollection, Nixon said, "This hand stretches out across the Pacific Ocean in friendship" as he shook hands with Zhou at the airport.

For both sides, it was a friendship born of circumstances, rather than natural allegiances.

China and the Soviet Union, formerly communist allies, had split and even clashed along their border in 1969, and Mao saw the United States as a potential counterbalance to any threat of a Soviet invasion.

Nixon was seeking to isolate the Soviet Union and exit a prolonged and bloody Vietnam War that had divided American society. He hoped that China, an ally of communist North Vietnam in its battle with the U.S.-backed South, could play a role in resolving the conflict.

The U.S. president put himself "in the position of supplicant to Beijing," said June Teufel Dreyer, a Chinese politics specialist at the University of Miami. Chinese state media promoted the idea that a "prosperous China would be a peaceful China" and that the country was a huge market for American exports, she said. It would be decades before that happened. First, the U.S. became a huge market for China, propelling



Then U.S. President Richard Nixon, right, is serious-faced as he eats with chopsticks next to then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in Shanghai on February 28, 1972.

Associated Press

ling the latter's meteoric rise from an impoverished nation to the world's second largest economy.

Nixon's visit was a "pivotal event that ushered in China's turn outward and subsequent rise globally," said the University of Chicago's Dali Yang, the author of numerous books on Chinese politics and economics.

Two years after Mao's death in 1976, new leader Deng Xiaoping ushered in an era of partial economic liberalization, creating a mix of state-led capitalism and single-party rule that has endured to this day.

China's wealth has enabled a major expansion of its military, which the U.S. and its allies see as a threat. The Communist Party says it seeks only to defend its territory. That includes, howev-

er, trying to control islands also claimed by Japan in the East China Sea and by Southeast Asian nations in the South China Sea, home to crucial shipping lanes and natural resources.

The military has sent a growing number of warplanes on training missions toward Taiwan, a source of friction with the United States. China claims the self-governing island off its east coast as its territory. The U.S. supplies Taiwan with military equipment and warns China against any attempt to take it by force.

Still, Nixon's trip to China was touted afterward as the signature foreign policy achievement of an administration that ended in ignominy with Watergate.

Embarking on the process of bringing China back into

the international fold was the right move, but the past half-century has yet to put relations on a stable track, said Rana Mitter, professor of Chinese history and modern politics at Oxford University.

"The U.S. and China have still failed to work out exactly how they will both fit into a world where they both have a role, but find it increasingly hard to accommodate each other," he said.

Chinese officials and scholars see the Nixon visit as a time when the two countries sought communication and mutual understanding despite their differences. Zhu Feng, the dean of the School of International Studies at Nanjing University, said the same approach is key to overcoming the current impasse.

"The commemoration of Nixon's visit tells us whether we can draw a kind of power from history," he said.

Though his trip to China gave the U.S. leverage in its Cold War rivalry with the Soviet Union, America now

faces a new geopolitical landscape — with echoes of the past.

The Soviet Union is gone, but the Russian and Chinese leaders, Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping, are finding common cause as they push back against U.S. pressure over their authoritarian ways. The Vietnam War is over, but America once again finds its society divided, this time over the pandemic response and the last presidential election.

U.S. President Joe Biden has said he wants a more predictable relationship with China but major differences over trade and human rights make mutual understanding elusive. The prospect of long-term stability in ties raised by Nixon's visit seems to be ever farther out of reach.

"China-U.S. relations are terrible," said Xiong Zhiyong, a professor of international relations at China Foreign Affairs University. "There are indeed people hoping to improve relations, but it is utterly difficult to achieve." □



New Census director has faith in quality of 2020 numbers

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

The new U.S. Census Bureau director said Monday that he is listening to the concerns of data users and policymakers, and the agency is making permanent community outreach efforts, in an effort to restore any trust that was lost following attempts by the Trump administration to politicize the nation's 2020 head count.

Despite those attempts and obstacles created by the pandemic, the Census Bureau did its job and the numbers used to determine political power and allocate federal funding "are quality products, and they are fit for the purpose they were intended," Robert Santos said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"I have high confidence and I've been incredibly pleased with the professionalism of the career staff at the Census Bureau, the job that they've done, and their dedication to the mission, the Constitution and the rule of law," Santos said. "They were doing their due diligence and they made sure they did the job that needed to be done to get the 2020 census done, despite all the obstacles."

The Trump administration unsuccessfully tried to add a citizenship question



Census Bureau Director nominee Robert Santos, testifies before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee, Thursday, July 15, 2021, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

to the 2020 census form, which opponents feared may have suppressed participation from immigrants groups. The Trump administration also named an unusually high number of political appointees to the bureau, and it tried to end the head count early last October, after its schedule had been adjusted for the pandemic, in what opponents said was an effort to release the numbers used for divvying up congressional seats while President Donald Trump was still in office.

Data from the once-a-decade head count also are used for drawing political districts and helping allocate \$1.5 trillion in federal spending each year.

The Urban Institute think tank last year estimated that 1.6 million people were missed in the 2020 census, with people of color, renters, noncitizens, children and people living in Texas most likely to be undercounted. In 2019, a year and a half before he was nominated to lead the Census Bureau, Santos co-authored an Urban Institute

report that said African Americans could be undercounted nationally by 3.6% and Hispanics could be undercounted by 3.5%, in worst-case scenarios in the 2020 census.

Santos, speaking to The Associated Press from his hometown of San Antonio, Texas, said Monday he had "absolutely zero idea" if those projections were accurate. Next month, the Census Bureau plans to release a report card showing how good a job it did of counting different populations.

Santos started a five-year term leading the nation's largest statistical agency at the beginning of the year after being nominated for the job by President Joe Biden. In his new job, he is overseeing the release of more detailed data from the 2020 census later this year, as well as preparing for the next once-a-decade head count in 2030. Santos said Monday that he is "eager" to work with the Office of Budget and Management on exploring whether the race and ethnic background questions should be combined and whether a category for people of Middle Eastern or North African descent should be added to the 2030 census form.

A previous study by the Suitland, Maryland-headquartered Census Bureau showed that combining the race and ethnic background questions increased response rates by Hispanics, who may be uncertain how to answer the race question because they often are from mixed racial and ethnic backgrounds. The Office of Budget and Management had considered pairing the questions for the 2020 census, but the Trump administration decided to keep the race question separate from the ethnicity one. □

Howard gets \$2M grant to digitize Black newspaper archive

By TALI ARBEL

AP Business Writer

Howard University has received a \$2 million donation to digitize a major collection of Black newspaper archives in hopes of making it more broadly available to researchers and the public.

The Black Press Archives, dating to the 1970s, contains over 2,000 newspaper titles from the U.S. and countries in Africa and the Caribbean. It includes well-known U.S. papers like the Chicago Defender and New York Amsterdam News as well as publications in French, Xhosa and Kiswa-

hili.

But most of the collection has been inaccessible to the public, with only a small percentage of materials microfilmed and the physical copies fragile, said Benjamin Talton, director of Howard's Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, which houses the archives. "Once digitized, Howard's Black Press Archive will be the largest, most diverse, and the world's most accessible Black newspaper database," he said in an email.

The Center for Journalism & Democracy at Howard, a historically Black univer-

sity in Washington, D.C., helped get the grant from the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, which supports social justice causes in journalism and the arts.

It's important to have access to the Black papers to have a better sense of the past, said Pulitzer winner and New York Times journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones, who founded the journalism center to increase diversity in the industry.

"We will be able to go back and look at these archives and these newspapers and the way the Black press was covering the world and have a greater un-



Journalist Nikole Hannah-Jones poses for a portrait at the headquarters of The Associated Press in New York, Friday, Dec. 10, 2021.

Associated Press

derstanding of who we are as a society, who we were back then and who we are now," she said. "Right now, we really are only getting

a very narrow part of the story, and that is the part of the story told through power and through the ruling class." □

NYC subway safety plan gets going after a violent weekend

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York's latest plan to tackle both crime and homelessness in subways was rolling into action Monday after police logged more than a half-dozen attacks in trains and stations over the holiday weekend.

Mayor Eric Adams' plan, announced Friday, involves sending more police, mental health clinicians and social service outreach workers into the subways. Adams spokesperson Fabien Levy said Monday that a "phased-in" implementation was beginning.

The plan notes that many people who use the subways for shelter need help, not handcuffs. But it says police will crack down on sleeping, littering, smoking, doing drugs or hanging out in the system. It calls for clearing all passengers out of trains at the ends of their lines, an approach that has waxed and waned over the years.

"What happened this weekend cannot be normal" and reflects the need for the new strategy, Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesperson Aaron Donovan said Monday. The state-controlled MTA runs the subways.

"People who would prey



People ride the subway, in New York, on Jan. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

on New Yorkers riding transit should get the message that it's not going to be tolerated," he said.

Levy, however, advised New Yorkers not to conflate "isolated acts of violence on the subways" with "the issues of aiding those experiencing homelessness that the mayor's plan directly addresses."

Adams, a Democrat and onetime transit police officer who took office last month, said Friday that allowing people to live on subways is "cruel and inhumane" to them and unfair to other riders and transit workers.

"The days of turning a blind eye to this growing problem are over," said Adams, a former New York City police captain who campaigned on improving public safety.

But Shelly Nortz, a deputy executive director of the nonprofit Coalition for the Homeless, cautioned against "criminalizing homelessness and mental illness" and suggested the city was falling back on policing strategies that had failed in the past.

In recent years, the city has veered between responding to concerns about crime in the subways and

complaints about heavy-handed policing there. The last mayor, Democrat Bill de Blasio, at times deployed more police into the system. So did Adams, just last month.

But in the weeks since, a woman was pushed in front of a train and killed under Times Square, a man was shoved onto the tracks and injured at a major hub in lower Manhattan, and even the mayor said he didn't feel entirely safe riding the nation's busiest subway system. It carried more than 5 million riders on an average weekday before the coronavirus pandemic;

the weekday average is now about 3 million.

Since Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul announced the new safety plan Friday, six people were stabbed or slashed in subway stations or trains, according to the New York Police Department. Two female teenagers were arrested in one of those attacks, accused of slashing a 74-year-old man in the face, pushing him to the ground and taking his cell phone Saturday afternoon after he argued with them while they smoked on a train.

On Monday, the Presidents Day holiday, a 58-year-old man was arrested on charges of going after another man with a hatchet around 12:30 a.m. in a Brooklyn subway stop where police were stationed. The victim, who managed to dodge the swinging hatchet, had asked why the attacker was staring at him, police said.

About two hours later, a man hit a woman in the face with a metal pipe aboard a subway train in the Bronx, police said. The woman, who declined medical care, told officers the man lashed out after asking her to stop talking with a friend of hers. No arrest has been made in that case. □



A crane is used to lift a Huntington Beach Police helicopter out of the water in Newport Beach, Calif., Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP) — A pilot reported mechanical issues shortly before a police helicopter crashed nose first along the Southern California coast, killing one officer, authorities said Sunday.

A Huntington Beach officer

who was injured in the crash Saturday was released from a hospital Sunday morning, police said. Authorities haven't identified the officer or detailed his injuries, but police spokeswoman Jennifer Carey told the Orange County Regis-

Issues reported before California police helicopter crash

ter that officials "are optimistic about his recovery." Nicholas Vella, a 14-year veteran, died in the crash, police Chief Eric Parra said Saturday night. Vella, 44, leaves behind a wife and daughter.

The two officers were responding to a disturbance in the neighboring city of Newport Beach around 6:30 p.m. Saturday when the aircraft crashed in a narrow strip of water in Newport Bay between Lido Isle and the Balboa Peninsula. Witnesses said boaters rushed to pull the officers out of the helicopter, which landed upside down in shallow water.

The pilot made a brief call to report that the helicopter was experiencing mechanical issues, before calling again to say that they were going to crash, said National Transportation Safety Board spokesperson Elliott Simpson during a Sunday news conference.

Simpson said preliminary reports are that the helicopter made "a nose-down descent into the water," according to the Los Angeles Times.

Crews used a crane to hoist the damaged helicopter from the shallow water on Sunday.

The cause of the crash will be determined at the end

of the NTSB's investigation, which could take 12 to 18 months, the agency said.

It wasn't immediately clear which officer was piloting the helicopter.

Dozens of officers and first responders formed a line Saturday night outside the hospital to salute Vella's casket as it was escorted to the Orange County coroner's office.

Vella "was truly dedicated to his job and was doing what he loved doing," the chief said.

"This is a difficult night for all of us and I would ask for your prayers and support as we support our officers' families." □

Blockades over, but Trudeau says emergency powers needed

By ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Monday emergency powers are still needed despite the progress police have made in stamping out weeks long paralyzing protests by truckers and others angry over Canada's COVID-19 restrictions.

"The situation is still fragile, the state of emergency is still there," Trudeau said.

Lawmakers in Parliament will vote Monday night whether to allow police to continue to use emergency powers. Opposition New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh said his party will support it, ensuring Trudeau has enough votes. Trudeau noted there are some truckers that are just outside Ottawa that may be planning further blockades and his public safety minister noted there was an effort to block a border crossing in British Columbia on the weekend.

The emergencies act allows authorities to declare certain areas as no go zones. It also allows police to freeze truckers' personal and corporate bank accounts and compels tow truck companies to tow away vehicles.

Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino said allowing police to designate a wide swath of Ottawa's downtown to become a no-go zone has been particularly effective. About 100 police checkpoints remain.

"We saw calm, peace and quiet and that was certainly a sense of relief for all of us," Mendicino said.

Singh, the opposition New Democratic leader, said they know there are protesters waiting in the surrounding areas of Ottawa and in the capital itself. "They need to be cleared out," Singh said.

Singh also noted there have been convoys that have been intercepted.

"This is an attack on our democracy. This is a group of folks who are very clearly connected to the extreme right wing," Singh said. "The organizers clearly have a



A camper is towed away by authorities clearing a trucker protest that was aimed at COVID-19 measures, in Ottawa, on Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

goal in mind to undermine democracy. That's something we can't allow to continue."

The trucker protests grew until it closed a handful of Canada-U.S. border posts and shut down key parts of the capital city for more than three weeks.

But all border blockades have now ended and the streets around the Canadian Parliament are quiet. Ottawa protesters who vowed never to give up are largely gone, chased away by police in riot gear. The relentless blare of truckers' horns has gone silent. A large police presence remains in Ottawa and some areas are fenced off.

The protests, which were first aimed at a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for cross-border truckers but also encompassed fury over the range of COVID-19 restrictions and hatred of Trudeau, reflected the spread of disinformation in Canada and simmering populist and right-wing anger.

The self-styled Freedom Convoy shook Canada's reputation for civility, inspired convoys in France, New Zealand and the Netherlands and interrupted trade, causing economic damage on both sides of the border. Hundreds of trucks eventually occupied the streets around Parlia-

ment, a display that was part protest and part carnival. For almost a week the busiest U.S.-Canada border crossing, the Ambassador bridge between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, was

blocked. The crossing sees more than 25% of the trade between the two countries. Authorities moved to reopen the border posts, but police in Ottawa did little but issue warnings un-

til Friday, even as hundreds and sometimes thousands of protesters clogged the streets of the city and besieged Parliament Hill.

On Friday, authorities launched the largest police operation in Canadian history, arresting a string of Ottawa protesters and increasing that pressure on Saturday until the streets in front of Parliament were clear. Eventually, police arrested at least 191 people and towed away 79 vehicles. Many protesters retreated as the pressure increased. Trudeau said for people in Ottawa were harassed and said billions of dollars in trade were stalled by the border blockades, putting people's jobs at risk. The protests have been cheered on in the U.S. by Fox News personalities and conservatives like former U.S. President Donald Trump. Millions of dollars in donations have flowed across the border to the protesters. □



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U.S. Navy plans launch of Mideast drone force alongside allies

By ISABEL DEBRE and
JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet announced Monday the launch of a new joint fleet of unmanned drones with allied nations to patrol vast swaths of the region's volatile waters as tensions simmer with Iran.

Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, who leads the 5th Fleet, told The Associated Press that 100 unmanned drones, both sailing and submersible, would dramatically multiply the surveillance capacities of the U.S. Navy, allowing it to keep a close eye on waters critical to the flow of the global oil and shipping. Trade at sea has been targeted in recent years as Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers collapsed.

"By using unmanned systems, we can just simply see more. They're high-reliability and remove the human factor," Cooper said on the sidelines of a defense exhibition in Abu Dhabi, adding the systems are "the only way to cover on whatever gaps that we have today." Cooper said he hopes the drone force using artificial intelligence would be operational by the summer of 2023 to put more "eyes and ears on the water."

The Bahrain-based 5th Fleet includes the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth



U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, who oversees the Mideast-based 5th Fleet, attends the Unmanned System Exhibition and Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes. It also stretches as far as the Red Sea reaches near the Suez Canal, the waterway in Egypt linking the Mideast to the Mediterranean, and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen.

The high seas have witnessed a series of assaults and escalations in recent years, following former President Donald Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the nuclear deal and reimpose devastating sanctions.

A maritime shadow war has played out as oil tankers have been seized by Iranian forces and suspicious

explosions have struck vessels in the region, including those linked to Israeli and Western firms. Iran has denied involvement in the attacks, despite evidence from the West to the contrary. "It's been well-established that Iran is the No. 1 in the primary regional threat we are addressing," Cooper said. "There's the ballistic missile, cruise missile and UAV (drone) component, both in their capability and their mass proliferation, as well as the proxy forces."

Iran sponsors proxy militias in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen that give it a military reach across the region.

As Yemen's 7-year-old civil war grinds on, the Iran-backed Houthi rebels have dispatched bomb-laden drone boats toward Saudi waters that have damaged vessels and oil facilities. "What the Houthis are doing, it is an entirely completely different operation that's offensively oriented," Cooper said. "What we are doing is inherently defensively oriented."

There has also been a recent string of tense encounters between Iranian and American naval boats in Mideast waters. The confrontations have underscored the risk of an armed clash between the nations.

Notably, however, Cooper said the U.S. has not seen such an episode in the past few months, as diplomats in Vienna attempt to resuscitate the tattered atomic accord.

"If you look back over the last couple of months, I would say it's status quo," Cooper said. "There have been some periods where they have had an uptick in activity. ... The overwhelming majority of these interactions are safe and professional."

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The shared threat of Iran has prompted a rapid realignment of politics in the Middle East. In 2020, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalized ties with Israel in a series of U.S.-brokered accords.

Those warm relations have even extended into a form of military diplomacy. Israel for the first time joined in a massive U.S.-led naval exercise in the region earlier this month, publicly participating alongside other Gulf Arab states with which it has no relations, including Saudi Arabia.

Cooper said that Israel likely would join in the Navy's unmanned naval drone task force in the region.

"I would expect exercises in the future where we would work side by side," he said. □



The Old City of Jerusalem is seen from the Mount of Olives, in East Jerusalem, Monday, Feb. 21, 2022.

Associated Press

By ILAN BEN ZION
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) —

Israel's Nature and Parks Author-

ity on Monday said it was backing down from a contentious plan to encompass Christian holy sites on Jeru-

Israeli authority backs down from Mount of Olives park plan

salem's Mount of Olives in a national park following vociferous outcry from major churches.

The Mount of Olives in east Jerusalem rises above Jerusalem's Old City and its sites are holy to three monotheistic faiths. Its slopes to the east of the Old City are studded with churches of various sects that mark the traditional places of events in the life of Jesus.

The Armenian, Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches petitioned Israel's environmental protection

minister, whose department is in charge of the Parks Authority, in a letter last week. The churches expressed the "gravest concern and unequivocal objection" to the plan, saying it would disrupt the longstanding state of affairs and aims to "confiscate and nationalize one of the holiest sites for Christianity and alter its nature." Farid Jubran, general counsel of the Catholic Church's Custody of the Holy Land, said that by making an area that includes church

property part of a national park it was "putting the control in the hands of people who have no other agenda but to wipe off any non-Jewish characteristic on this mountain."

Environmental Protection Minister Tamar Zandberg did not respond to interview requests.

But shortly after the churches' outcry, the Nature and Parks Authority said it was freezing the plan, which was to be approved on March 2 by Jerusalem's planning committee. □

Myanmar seeks to have Rohingya case thrown out of U.N. court

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Lawyers for Myanmar's military rulers on Monday sought the dismissal of a case that accuses the Southeast Asian nation of genocide against the Rohingya ethnic minority, saying the United Nations' top court lacked jurisdiction.

Public hearings at the International Court of Justice went ahead amid questions about who should represent Myanmar in the aftermath of the military take-over of the country last year. The decision to allow Myanmar's military-installed government to represent the country at the hearings drew sharp criticism.

"It is outrageous for the ICJ to proceed with these hearings on the basis of junta representation. The junta is not the government of Myanmar, it does not represent the state of Myanmar, and it is dangerous for the court to allow it to present itself as such," said Chris Sidoti of advocacy group Special Advisory Council for Myanmar. A shadow administration known as the National Unity Government made up of representatives including elected lawmakers who were prevented from taking their seats by the military takeover had argued that it should be representing Myanmar in court. But, instead, it was the ad-



Rohingya refugees gather near a fence during a government organized media tour, to a no-man's land between Myanmar and Bangladesh, near Taungpyolatyar village, Maung Daw, northern Rakhine State, Myanmar, June 29, 2018.

ministration installed by the military. The legal team was led by Ko Ko Hlaing, the minister for international cooperation. He replaced pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, who led the country's legal team at earlier hearings in the case in 2019. She now is in prison after being convicted on what her supporters call trumped-up charges.

As the hearing started, the court's president, U.S. Judge Joan Donoghue, noted "that the parties to a contentious case before the court are states, not particular governments."

A Myanmar rights group questioned the court's decision to allow the military

regime to represent Myanmar, which was formerly known as Burma.

"We are glad the case is going forward but find it deeply troubling that the military is allowed to appear before the court as representatives of Burma," Burma Human Rights Network's Executive Director Kyaw Win said in a statement. "The coup regime is in the middle of a horrific campaign of violence against civilians, and the last thing they should be given is any legitimacy in a U.N. body."

Lawyers representing Myanmar argued that the case should be tossed out because the court

only hears cases between states and the Rohingya complaint was brought by Gambia on behalf of the Organization of Islamic States.

They also argued that Gambia could not bring the case to court as it was not directly linked to the events in Myanmar and that a legal dispute did not exist between the two countries before the case was filed.

Lawyers for Gambia are scheduled to respond on Wednesday. Judges will likely take months to rule on the preliminary objections. Ahead of Monday's hearing, members of Myanmar's National Unity Gov-

ernment, urged the court not to accept representatives of the military rulers.

"It would be a most profound injustice to the Rohingya if the military were to be both their abusers and have any voice in the court," said the unity government's foreign minister, Zin Mar Aung.

The organization said it has contacted the court seeking to withdraw Myanmar's preliminary objections to the case. The national unity government says it is the country's only legitimate government but no foreign government has recognized it.

The dispute at the world court in The Hague reflects a broader struggle in the international community over whom to accept as Myanmar's legitimate rulers in the aftermath of the coup.

Southeast Asian foreign ministers held their annual retreat last week without their counterpart from Myanmar, who was black-balled from participating but allowed to attend online as an observer.

The military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state in 2017 after an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled into neighboring Bangladesh and security forces were accused of mass rapes, killings and torching thousands of homes. □

Light rain brings hope for fire-ravaged Argentina province

By **VICTOR CAIVANO**

Associated Press

CORRIENTES, Argentina (AP) — Wildfires that have been ravaging northern Argentina for several weeks advanced relentlessly Sunday, although the light rains that began over the weekend gave some hope to firefighters.

Corrientes province is the most affected area, where officials said at least eight separate fires continued to burn and had devastated at least 9% of its territory.

The flames are consuming about 30,000 hectares (89,000 acres) a day in Corrientes, destroying almost 800,000 hectares so far, according to the latest official reports. Strong winds, low humidity and dryness from drought have helped the fires spread since mid-January. Forecasters said the light rains that were falling Sunday were expected to continue throughout the coming week.

The mainly rural province of farms, ranches and forests

normally is characterized by abundant rain.

"It never happened to us, we never lived something like this, we were really overcome," said one resident, Jorge Ayala,

Firefighting units have begun to arrive from all corners of Argentina and also from Brazil and Bolivia.

Artists and public figures are campaigning to raise funds for the victims, while donations of basic goods are pouring into the area. People are bringing fruit,



Cows gather next to a column of fire in Santo Tome, Corrientes province, Argentina, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

water and ice, said Laura Núñez, a volunteer helping fight the blazes. "They bring it in a trailer, they are get-

ting everything possible so that we can focus on the fire and try to help," she said. □



Bohemian Restaurant & Bar, The Story: French Nomads in Culinary Avant-Garde

Like nomads travel from place to place to find fresh pasture for their livestock, the Nataf family –father Victor with sons David and Gregory - faithfully followed their nose for good food. As young boys, they indulged in their grandparent's culinary joie-de-vivre in the South of France. Ticked by the palette of excellent dishes prepared in their mid-seventies' restaurant in the Alps of France and filled with exquisite taste of their other restaurants in the beautiful island of Porquerolles near St Tropez that made it to a ranking of 13/20 in the Gault Millau restaurant grading. To the Natafs, food is a bohemian experience_ unconventional, eclectic and off the beaten track. Welcome to Bohemian Aruba!

A Grande entrée through a huge, wooden, Moroccan-style door takes you into a foodies Garden of Eden. Big trees stand tall and proudly, lit with hanging lanterns creating a green and romantic lush paradise. There's a playful setting of different-styled tables, including seating



under a Colombian Rattan tipi tent, complete the feel of let go alias laissez-faire. The cool bar blinks to New York loft style, think industrial bold. Waiters with hip suspenders and berets add a hint of French flair while lounge music fills the air. The décor is designed by David himself.

David Nataf - Owner

"Thoughts of finger licking dishes fill my mind thinking of my youth. The smell of fresh-baked crois-

sants and chocolate bread hand made by my uncle's brother in law's father "the baker". The restaurant's kitchen fridge stuffed with the most exquisite dishes that my brother and I consumed secretly after a night out to the frustration of the chef. We were young boys eating away the night with foie gras and loup de mer local branzino."

Tongue melting fondue and raclette, wood oven pizzas with fresh Emmentaler cheese and hand-picked champignons founded his foodie character. Add this to the time he spent at the grandparents' house in the vineyards with fruits, veggies, poultry, and game within hand's reach. What was missing was bought at the weekly farmers market. "I grew up with the farm-to-table concept."

Le Magic

The family magic is translated through David into Bohemian. Starters like Vitello Tonnato, le Ceviche, homemade Foie Gras Terrine or Escargots "A la Bourguignonne" tickle your taste buds. For entrees Whole Shrimps



Flambe with Cognac, Grilled 10oz Angus Rib Eye Steak "Maître d'Hôtel" or Braised Lamb Shank ignite passion in your soul. Spicy Moroccan Mahi-Mahi Kebab with chickpea hummus and ratatouille crumble, Paella made with their own fish broth filled with chicken seafood and chorizo are other culinary delights but there is much more. Wines are imported directly from France regions, as is the champagne. Italian, Spanish, American and Australian choices complete the list.

Raving reviews on a continuous basis prove that Bohemian has got it! Every Wednesday there is Live Flamenco with Angela Croes, on Thursdays you will enjoy the beautiful live sounds of Angela's violin and on Friday's and Saturday's go with the beat of electro lounge. Live salsa music can be enjoyed on Sunday's. "Join our gypsy experience, travel with taste"

For reservations call +297 280 8448 or mail reservations@bohemianaruba.com or book through the website bohemianaruba.com.□



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The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

ATELYAY**ORANJESTAD - Three emerging artists have settled in Cosecha, Oranjestad Aruba, for a working period, for the sea and a healing journey. They all work in the autonomous arts in diverse disciplines.**

Aydee Derix, raised multimedia artist, playfully researches and explores the absurdities of existence and the world around us, such as: tourism, ecology, and human hypocrisy toward animal care, which she expresses through large-scale paintings and audiovisual installations.

Mirte van den Bos explores the desire and the possibility to become a non-human object like a shell or forest. Her work also expresses the celebration or preservation of life on Earth through poetry, spatial installations, and performances.

Chantal van Lieshout is concerned with the big and tiny elements with which we share our reality such as; insects, seas, knots and beach found treasures that emerge in objects such as wind sculptures, epoxy castings and bondage toys.

We would like to invite you to our studio to view our creations while sipping a refreshing drink (while supplies last) on February 25th, 8PM.

About Cosecha

Cosecha is a retail gallery that displays Aruban crafts, design and heritage inspired products, all handmade by local craftspeople. Cosecha is located at Zoutmanstraat 1, Oranjestad. For more information go to their facebook page: Aruba Cosecha. □

Aruba to me**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submit-

ting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

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Travellers' Choice 2020

Covid Status in Aruba as of Feb 21, 2022

ORANJESTAD – Here is the latest update on the ongoing COVID situation in Aruba.

As of February 21 2022, Aruba registered 47 active cases, of which 11 were non-residents. Whereas the average daily cases over the past seven days total 15. The positivity rate stands at 23%.

Hospitalizations:

There are currently 9 hospitalized of which 1 is in the ICU. In Colombia there are 6 persons in ICU. Due to lack of staff at the hospital they have to send patients over to Colombia for treatment.

Elimination of the COVID measures:

The Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes announced that as of February 17, 2022, all COVID-19 measures had been eliminated. However, the Prime Minister emphasized that testing for admission to Aruba remains in force. Hence, everyone arriving in Aruba must test before entering. Testing is not required if fully vaccinated (must include booster shot). Residents can get a test in Aruba upon arrival. Please note that they must be fully vaccinated, including booster shot.

- Business closure is back to what is specified on the permit (vergunningstijd). No restrictions.
- No restrictions on number of diners at restaurant tables.
- Other COVID-19 measures in force at schools, businesses, and retirement homes

will also be eliminated.

However, recommendations remain in place:

- Wash your hands frequently;
- keep 1.5 meters distance;
- use face masks;
- get your vaccine or booster shot;
- ventilate indoor spaces;
- use COVID-19 self-tests;
- if you have symptoms stay inside and get tested;
- if an establishment requires the use of a face mask, you must comply.

Adaptation of testing requirements to enter Aruba

As of February 3, 2022, non-resident travelers visiting Aruba have two testing options before boarding.


- A PCR test is taken per the country of origin's risk level;
- An Antigen lab-test within 24 hours of travel

You must upload the test results online on the ED card system. The introduction of the Antigen option facilitates the entire testing process travelers have to go through and makes it possible for more visitors to get their test results in time for their Aruba vacation. This option contributes to the growth of our tourism without increasing the risks of more covid infections. Travelers from high-risk countries still cannot test upon arrival but must show a negative PCR result before boarding.

- Residents returning from the USA can get a (PCR) test at the airport upon arrival but can now also get an Antigen test within 24 hours of travel from the US.
- Those who wish to do a Molecular (e.g. PCR) test will have 3 days to take the Molecular test
- Aruba will be opening up to all countries
- Aruba launched the option to travel with a digitally verifiable QR-Code proof of Covid-19 booster vaccination. Any combination of the following vaccines and booster shot administered at least 7 days before travel will be accepted:
 - Comirnaty (Pfizer BioNTech),
 - Spikevax (Moderna),
 - Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca),
 - Janssen (Johnson&Johnson),
 - Nuvaxovid (Novavax).

This needs to be uploaded as part of the ED Card process no earlier than 3 days before arrival. If you can't scan the QR you will be able to upload a picture of the vaccination card but this must be as clear as possible and also with all details showing.

For the U.S.: Please take note that neither the physical nor a picture of the CDC card will be accepted, it needs to be in the form of a SMART Health Card.

For more details go to www.aruba.com traveler requirement. 

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portu-



guese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's

saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa

(Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quincentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian

hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermine Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry. We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

**Anonymous
Source: Dushi Aruba**

Painless — even fun — ways to learn about money

By Liz Weston of
NerdWallet

The online landscape is littered with horrible personal finance advice: teenagers promoting day trading strategies, “influencers” flogging questionable investment schemes and people with dubious credentials insisting you shouldn’t invest in a 401(k). Outrageous statements and flashy graphics grab attention, but there’s also plenty of sound, factually correct money content out there — and some of it is even entertaining. So if you want to learn more about managing your finances while having at least a little fun, here are some ways to go about it.

AUDIO WORTH LISTENING TO

With podcasts, you have a wealth of options (sorry, I couldn’t resist). One to try is “Stacking Benjamins,” which a Fast Company article accurately describes as striking “a great balance of fun and functional.” Former financial advisor Joe Saul-Sehy and certified financial planner Josh Bannerman mix news, banter and education with the help of regular contributors Paula Pant and Len Penzo, plus a wide variety of guests. (Full disclosure: I’ve been a guest on “Stacking Benjamins,” among other podcasts, and I co-host “NerdWallet’s Smart Money Podcast.”)



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for personal finance website NerdWallet.com.

Associated Press

Also, check out two public radio podcasts: “Planet Money,” which explains how the economy works, and “This Is Uncomfortable,” which describes itself as a podcast about life and how money messes with it. Public radio isn’t known for being a laugh a minute, but high production values and good storytelling will keep you engaged.

If you like learning by listening, the social media app Clubhouse also might be worth exploring. This voice-only app allows you to listen and often participate in live conversations about a seemingly infinite number of topics. Consider starting with the Personal Finance Club. (Clubhouse started as invitation-only, but now is open to all.)

Of course, as with all social media, proceed with caution. Having a lot of followers doesn’t mean someone is credible, honest or knowledgeable.

Plenty of people pose as experts without the credentials or experience to actually be one. No one is required to disclose conflicts of interest, and your default assumption should be that what you’re hearing or seeing may not be in your best interest.

Information or advice shared on social media is not customized to your unique circumstances, says CFP Lazetta Rainey Braxton of Brooklyn, New York. Research the ideas to ensure they make sense for your situation, and consider consulting an appropriate expert such as a tax pro, CFP or attorney, Braxton says.

WHAT TO WATCH

Suppose you’re more of a visual learner. In that case, you’ll find many credentialed experts to follow on Instagram, including CFP Britney Castro and certified financial education instructor Bola Sokunbiof “Clever Girl Finance.”

But for sheer fun, it’s hard to beat Berna Anat, also known as “Hey Berna,” a financial educator whose professed goal is to make “financial literacy more funny, more accessible and more Brown for young

people everywhere.”

Anat and several other worthy Instagram creators such as “The Financial Diet” and “His and Her Money” are also on YouTube — along with a bunch of finance and investing channels spouting sketchy advice (often interrupted by even sketchier commercials).

Be wary of creators who pretend that making vast sums is easy or who promote risky strategies, such as options trading or borrowing money to buy volatile assets such as cryptocurrency, especially if you’re new to investing. Also, be skeptical of creators who aren’t transparent about their financial situations or strategies, says Nashville-based CFP Jeff Rose, a blogger at “Good Financial Cents,” who has hosted the Wealth Hacker channel on YouTube since 2011.

Many people claim to have spectacular financial success but are really trying to lure you into buying courses or other products that make money for them and are not in your best interest.

That’s especially true on TikTok, where videos often last mere seconds, and bold claims about instant wealth seem to be the norm.

Even here, though, some people are creating substantive, entertaining money content. Two to check

out include Humphrey Yang (@humphreytalks) and Delyanne Barros (@delyannethemoneycoach).

KICK IT OLD SCHOOL

If books are your bag, you won’t have to caffeinate yourself to get through the following personal finance tomes that lace their education with plenty of humor:

- “Stacked: Your Super-Serious Guide to Modern Money Management,” by “Stacking Benjamins” host Saul-Sehy and co-author Emily Guy Birken.
- “Bad With Money: The Imperfect Art of Getting Your Financial Sh(asterisk)t Together,” by comedian and LG-BTQ activist Gaby Dunn.
- Any of the three books by Erin Lowry, including “Broke Millennial,” “Broke Millennial Takes On Investing” and “Broke Millennial Talks Money.”

One final recommendation: “The Richest Man in Babylon,” by George S. Clason.

This slender book of parables isn’t funny, but it is entertaining, an easy read and amazingly relevant nearly 100 years after its first publication.

The ways we learn about money may change dramatically, but much of the best personal finance advice doesn’t. □

Leak gives details on over 30,000 Credit Suisse bank clients

BERLIN (AP) — A German newspaper and other media on Sunday said a leak of data from Credit Suisse, Switzerland’s second-biggest bank, reveals details of the accounts of more than 30,000 clients — some of them unsavory — and points to possible failures of due diligence in checks on many customers.

Credit Suisse said in a statement that it “strongly rejects the allegations and insinuations about the bank’s purported business practices.”

The German daily Sued-

deutsche Zeitung said it received the data anonymously through a secure digital mailbox over a year ago. It said it’s unclear whether the source was an individual or a group, and the newspaper didn’t make any payment or promises.

The newspaper said it evaluated the data, which ranged from the 1940s until well into the last decade, along with the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project and dozens of media partners including The New York Times

and The Guardian.

It said the data points to the bank having accepted “corrupt autocrats, suspected war criminals and human traffickers, drug dealers and other criminals” as customers.

Credit Suisse said the allegations are “predominantly historical” and that “the accounts of these matters are based on partial, inaccurate, or selective information taken out of context, resulting in tendentious interpretations of the bank’s business conduct.” The bank said it had re-



The logo of the Swiss bank Credit Suisse is seen on a building in Zurich, Switzerland, Oct. 21, 2015.

Associated Press

viewed a large number of accounts potentially associated with the allegations, and about 90% of them “are today closed

or were in the process of closure prior to receipt of the press inquiries, of which over 60% were closed before 2015.” □

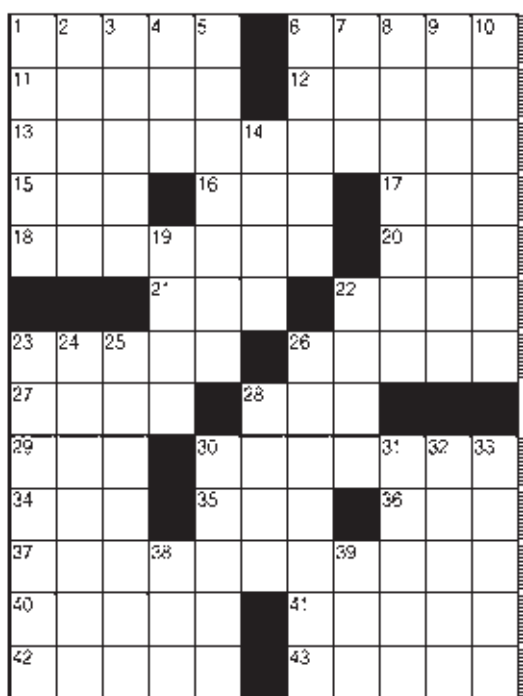
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Beat it!" breather
 - 6 Nest insects
 - 11 First-rate
 - 12 Prologue
 - 13 Running out of energy
 - 15 Really impress
 - 16 Opponent
 - 17 Iris setting
 - 18 Muscle connectors
 - 20 Jar part
 - 21 Saloon supply
 - 22 Singer Home
 - 23 Marine predator
 - 26 Evasive
 - 27 "Phooey!"
 - 28 China chairman
 - 29 Tolkien baddie
 - 30 Campus dining area
 - 34 "The Raven" writer
 - 35 Hawaii's Mauna —
 - 36 Atlas page
 - 37 2003 Pixar movie
 - 40 Leading
 - 41 Gung-ho
- DOWN**
- 1 Dropped-tomato sound
 - 2 Russell of "Gladiator"
 - 3 Out of bed
 - 4 French friend
 - 5 Community's fellows
 - 6 — up (gets smart)
 - 7 Small worker
 - 8 Made resolute
 - 9 Saying grace, e.g.
 - 10 Eventually
 - 14 Departed
 - 19 Poorly lit
 - 22 Weaving machine
 - 23 Seek at the store
 - 24 Jane Eyre, for one
 - 25 Stresses some z's
 - 26 Lawsuit award
 - 28 Earth orbiter
 - 30 Short film segments
 - 31 Letter after psi
 - 32 Identified
 - 33 Future fungus
 - 38 Period
 - 39 Catch



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

I O T I B Z R , H L H O S M G H Z R
P M Z G P I M B T O I S M T . S M T
Y T R I P M I I M U Z G V I B H
M G H R A M O I B R T U U H O Z G P U M O .

Q M Q F X O E H S

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINGS DON'T TURN UP IN THIS WORLD UNTIL SOMEBODY TURNS THEM UP — JAMES A. GARFIELD

Trump's social media app launches year after Twitter ban



Former president Donald Trump speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

By BERNARD CONDON

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's social media app that he hopes will rival Twitter launched Monday as he seeks a new digital stage to rally his supporters and fight Big Tech limits on speech a year after he was banned from Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. His Truth Social app was offered for download from the Apple App Store to a limited number of subscribers who had pre-ordered, with others added to a waiting list to be given access over the next 10 days.

The site encountered technical glitches shortly after launch, with reports that subscribers were shut out for hours. Others had trouble signing on. The site is

not expected to be open to anyone who wants to download it until next month. "Due to massive demand, we have placed you on our waitlist," read a message some of those trying to access the platform, adding, "We love you." Trump is hoping Truth Social will attract the millions who followed him on Twitter as he hints at a third presidential run, triggering a wave of other subscribers to justify the billions of dollars that investors have bet on the venture. Shares in a company that plans to buy Trump Media and Technology Group, the parent of Truth Social, have soared in recent months.

According to Apple's rankings, Truth Social was the top free app in the U.S. on Monday morning, besting

the "Talking Ben the Dog" children's game, streaming service HBO Max, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.

The partial launch Monday follows an experimental "beta" launch to test the platform last week.

Trump was banned from top social media platforms following the Jan. 6 Capitol riot last year that critics accused him of inciting. The ban has raised difficult questions of free speech in a social media industry dominated by few tech giants, an issue that Trump and conservative media have seized upon.

Republicans were quick to use the launch of Truth Social to raise money for their election efforts. □

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);
Week 5/1315 (19k);
Week 8/1113 (18k);
Week 8/1409 (18k);
Week 9/1218 (16k);
Week 10/1207 (16k);
Week 13/1509 (13k);
Week 14/1308 (13k);
Week 15/1217 (10k).
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Condo For sale

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Condo for sale

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Condo For Sale

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Condo For Sale

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Review: Channing Tatum and his dog co-star raise the woof

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Something would have had to go very, very wrong for “Dog” not to work on a basic level. Pairing Channing Tatum, one of our most likable leading men, with a dog in a road trip two-hander is probably the closest you can get to a guaranteed win in Hollywood.

This is also a project that was born out of utter sincerity in the wreckage of a few years wasted on a squashed superhero movie. Tatum and his longtime producing partner Reid Carolin put their heads together to make something small, something meaningful, something they could do by themselves and something that they would want to see in a movie theater. And “Dog” was born, with both Tatum and Carolin making their directorial debuts. In addition to directing, Tatum plays former U.S. Army Ranger Jackson Briggs, who is a lost soul when not in deployment. His day job making sandwiches at a Subway-type fast casual restaurant isn’t exactly giving him life. And all he wants is to get back overseas. There, he feels, he



This image released by MGM shows Channing Tatum in a scene from “Dog.”

Associated Press

has a purpose. But though he has the motivation, he needs a recommendation, too, and his superior is not budging on that.

Then he gets an assignment: Take Lulu, a Belgian Malinois who Briggs served with, from Washington to Arizona for her handler’s funeral. If he can do this, maybe he’ll get the recommendation and be back in the field. Lulu, who is played by three different dogs, is not doing well, though.

She can’t handle flying and she’s prone to attacking people, so they have to drive the 1,600 miles to make the service.

The start is a little rough and meandering. Briggs sees Lulu as just a means to an end and basically a nuisance that he has to deal with for a few days. On their first stop, he leaves her trapped in his truck while he goes prowling for women in Portland — a fruitless endeavor that seems to

be played for comedy, but ends up just feeling sad. The film has several over-the-top gags, including one with a sadistic cannabis farmer and another bit where Briggs impersonates a blind man to get a fancy hotel room. All may theoretically work on their own, but they also don’t quite mesh with the overall tone. It’s an interesting conundrum, too, because Tatum and Reid were not wrong to want to inject some hu-

mor and levity into a pretty heavy subject. But perhaps the issue is that Briggs is not your average Tatum character. He is not Magic Mike or Jimmy Logan, who are both fundamentally good guys in himbo packaging: He’s selfish, he’s got an ego and a temper and a young child (with an estranged partner played by Q’orianka Kilcher) who doesn’t even recognize him when he comes to the door bearing a gas station stuffed unicorn. Briggs is someone who doesn’t even really know how broken he is.

The disjointedness starts to mesh after an illuminating stop in Los Angeles (where there is still a strange showdown in a homeless encampment near the boardwalk) and the film gets back to its roots, which is Briggs and Lulu, without distractions. Together they have some genuinely moving breakthroughs and Tatum is allowed to flex his dramatic muscles more than usual. Ultimately it does work, but “Dog” is a movie that is trying to do quite a bit, and perhaps bites off a little more than it can reasonably handle in 90 minutes. □



Father Matthew Hood celebrates mass at Our Lady of the Rosary church Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, in Detroit. In 2020, one word caught the ear of a young Detroit-area Catholic priest while he watched a video of his baptism from decades earlier. “Wait,” the Rev. Matthew Hood recalled thinking. “Something doesn’t seem right here.” Indeed, an error by a deacon had spoiled the sacrament — and, in domino-like fashion, meant he truly wasn’t a priest. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

By **ED WHITE**
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — One word caught the ear of a young priest a few years ago when his father shared a video of his 1990 baptism at

a suburban Detroit church. “Wait,” the Rev. Matthew Hood recalled thinking. “Something doesn’t seem right here.”

Indeed, an error by a deacon who said “We bap-

Like in Arizona, botched baptisms roiled Michigan church

tize” instead of “I baptize” spoiled Hood’s baptism in the eyes of the Catholic Church — and, in domino-like fashion, erased his other sacraments and meant that he wasn’t really a priest.

It was perhaps the most significant consequence from a controversy that emerged nearly two years ago at St. Anastasia Church in Troy, after the Vatican said the use of “we” invalidates baptisms in the Catholic faith.

Thousands of Arizona Catholics recently made headlines when they learned that they, too, may have been improperly baptized with the wrong words in a separate but similar matter involving a popular pastor,

the Rev. Andres Arango, who resigned Feb. 1.

In Michigan, Hood was baptized, given other sacraments and swiftly ordained again to the priesthood within days in 2020. But the Archdiocese of Detroit still hasn’t heard from hundreds of people whose rites at St. Anastasia are considered invalid, despite outreach efforts and publicity.

It immediately caused confusion and anger as frustrated members of St. Anastasia wondered why the Catholic Church was hung up on a single word expressed by a deacon during baptisms in the 1980s and ‘90s.

The archdiocese said Deacon Mark Springer, now

retired, performed nearly 800 baptisms at St. Anastasia from 1986-99. After the decree by the Vatican, local church officials said all were presumed invalid unless there’s clear evidence that he didn’t use the phrase “we baptize.” It’s not the “we” of the congregation doing the baptizing, but rather the “I” of Jesus Christ, working through a priest or deacon, that makes a baptism valid, the Vatican said in a global order. That sent people at St. Anastasia scrambling to find videos of their children’s baptism, the official entry into the church and a gateway sacrament to other Catholic rites, such as Holy Communion and even marriage. □

Another win for NASCAR with drama-free Daytona 500

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer
DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)

— Jim France was ecstatic in the garage before the Daytona 500. The grandstands were full for the first time in two years, fans again roamed every inch of the grounds in search of a selfie or a signature, and there was no threat of rain ruining NASCAR's biggest race of the season. There was no talk of NASCAR's new car or new rules. No sense of foreboding ahead of the start. The show was all that mattered. "I keep looking up, so thankful we've finally got perfect weather," said NASCAR's chairman. "This is going to be a perfect day."

And so it was for NASCAR, which wrapped its 64th running of "The Great American Race" without a single snag. The race was fine and free of drama, the Next Gen car was as good as advertised, and rookie Austin Cindric was a fresh first-time winner who gifted Roger Penske a victory on the team owner's 85th birthday.

The race marked a return to normalcy for NASCAR, which found flexibility during the pandemic that helped America's top motorsports series navigate its way through two turbulent years. A willingness to adapt and break from its long traditions has helped



Austin Cindric, center, celebrates in Victory Lane with car owner Roger Penske, left, and crew chief Jeremy Bullins after winning the NASCAR Daytona 500 auto race at Daytona International Speedway, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

stabilize NASCAR at the same time it's undergoing massive change.

Shutdowns and mandates forced NASCAR to race where it could in 2020, a catalyst to the most significantly overhauled schedule in series history the next season. Cover Bristol in dirt? Sure! Add more road courses? Absolutely!

Taking a few risks emboldened NASCAR to think entirely outside its comfort zone.

NASCAR built a temporary track inside Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and

then moved The Clash from Daytona International Speedway, its only home since its 1979 debut, to Los Angeles. The star-studded exhibition race earlier this month even included a halftime — unheard of in motorsports — with a six-minute set performed by Ice Cube.

The success of The Clash re-energized the industry ahead of the Daytona 500, which had sold out well over a month in advance and had an estimated 120,000 spectators on site Sunday across speedway

grounds.

"If you ask the question how I think NASCAR is today and what we see, I think we're on a great trajectory," Penske said. "All of the new fans that we had at the Coliseum, and certainly selling this place out and sponsorships and suites, I think it's terrific."

NASCAR looked much different Sunday than it did two years ago at the Daytona 500, when then-President Donald Trump descended on the speedway. Trump delivered the command to start engines,

but his appearance turned the Daytona 500 into something closer to a campaign rally.

Bubba Wallace that day was the only Black driver in the Daytona 500 field, and that was still the case when he crossed the finish line in second behind Cindric on Sunday. But the demographics within the sport have dramatically improved as NASCAR works to broaden its traditional audience.

Michael Jordan is now owner of a team and was at the Daytona 500 for a second consecutive year. Jordan, who made it from the race to Cleveland in time for the NBA's celebration Sunday night of its 75th season, is co-owner of 23XI Racing, and with Wallace as the driver it marks the only pairing of a Black owner and Black driver at NASCAR's top level.

Pitbull has an ownership stake at Trackhouse Racing, which fields a car for Mexican driver Daniel Suarez, and the team recently welcomed UFC President Dana White to its ownership group.

But in addition to Jordan's cars, the Daytona 500 featured two new teams run by Black owners. The Money Team Racing, owned by boxing great Floyd Mayweather Jr., made its NASCAR debut with a 26th-place finish by Kaz Grala. □

Medina Spirit stripped of Kentucky Derby victory

By GARY B. GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

Medina Spirit was stripped of the victory in last year's Kentucky Derby and Mandaloun was declared the winner after a ruling by state racing stewards on Monday.

The since-deceased Medina Spirit tested positive after the race last May for a steroid, betamethasone, that is legal in Kentucky but banned on race day. Medina Spirit finished half a length ahead of Mandaloun in the race, giving

trainer Bob Baffert what was then his seventh Kentucky Derby title. Baffert was subsequently banned for two years by Churchill Downs following the positive test.

Monday's decision by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission makes Medina Spirit the second horse in the 146-year history of the race to be disqualified for a banned substance; the first was Dancer's Image in 1968, a decision that gave Forward Pass the victory.

The only other disqualification was in 2019 when Maximum Security was penalized because of interference.

Following the announcement by the racing stewards, Churchill Downs issued a statement declaring Mandaloun the Kentucky Derby winner. Mandaloun's owners will receive the \$1.8 million winner's purse.

The racing commission also suspended Baffert for 90 days and fined him \$7,500 on Monday.



In this May 1, 2021, file photo, Medina Spirit, ridden by John Velazquez, right, leads Mandaloun, and jockey Florent Geroux, to the wire in the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

Medina Spirit collapsed and died on Dec. 6 of a heart attack following a training run at Santa Anita

less than a month after finishing second in the Breeders' Cup Classic at Del Mar. □

Curry sets 3s record, LeBron the winner in NBA All-Star Game

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Basketball Writer

CLEVELAND (AP)—Stephen Curry got another 3-point record. LeBron James got another All-Star win.

Not a bad night in Ohio for the two All-Stars from Akron.

"It's right on the nose of how it should go," Curry said.

Curry turned boos to oohs and aahs with the greatest long-distance shooting performance in All-Star Game history, then James made a turnaround jumper that gave Team LeBron a 163-160 victory over Team Durant on Sunday night.

Curry made 16 3-pointers and scored 50 points, two off Anthony Davis' record. He was clearly hunting it, asking on the sideline during a sizzling third quarter how many points it would take.

On a night both players were among the greats of the game who were honored during a halftime ceremony celebrating the NBA's 75th anniversary team, Curry and James showed why they continue to stand out among today's best.

Curry, who earlier this season became the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers, missed his final attempt beyond the arc that would have allowed him to surpass Davis. But with James' team needing a basket to reach the target score of 163 points, they couldn't afford to keep feeding Curry. So James pulled up from deep on the right side for the winning bucket, making him 5-0 in the format where the leading vote-getters in each conference draft teams.

The All-Star Game's return to Cleveland was expected to be James' night. He is the Cavaliers franchise's greatest player, having led them to their only NBA championship in 2016.

Instead, he fittingly co-starred with Curry, who was born in the same Akron hospital three years later.

"Obviously I got the MVP; I played well the whole night. He hit the game-winner," Curry said. "All the



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, right, shoots for three as Memphis Grizzlies' Ja Morant defends during the second half of the NBA All-Star basketball game, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

history of our series and the Akron ties, and all that kind of going into how the night went, so it was pretty — can't really draw it up any other way." Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points, increasing what was a 28.8 average that was already best in All-Star Game history. James finished with 24 in his old home. Joel Embiid led Team Durant with 36 points. Curry finished 16 of 27 beyond the arc — sometimes well, well behind it. He launched a few from the All-Star 2022 logo near midcourt, running backward without even waiting to watch one go in. The 3-point arc is slightly more than 23 feet away. Curry had made shots listed from 37, 33 and 34 feet during one stretch of the third quarter.

"This guy is from a different planet. He literally has an automatic sniper connected to his arm, and when he lets it go, not only himself, but everybody on the floor, in the stands, on TV, on their phones, whatever you are watching on, you think it's going in every time," James said. "Nine times out of 10 and sometimes 10 times out of 10, it does go in.

"To be out there and watch that kid from Akron as well shoot the ball the way he shot it, it was unbelievable," James said. "It was pretty cool."

Curry had been booed all weekend, smiling through the sounds during pregame introductions as Cleveland fans made clear they hadn't forgiven him for helping Golden State beat the Cavaliers three times in the NBA Finals from 2015-18.

But the fans were enjoying his show too much to keep going as the game went on, though the boos returned when he was presented the MVP award that in 2020 was renamed in honor of Kobe Bryant, who won a record-tying four of them.

The Kobe Bryant Trophy was redesigned this year and given to Curry in front of a crowd that included Bryant's wife, Vanessa.

Curry received 11 of the 12 votes for the award, with James earning the other through a fan vote.

Michael Jordan was the last player introduced for the halftime ceremony and James said his winning shot was inspired by

the turnaround fadeaway that Jordan perfected during his Hall of Fame career. It earned \$450,000 for the Kent State I Promise Scholars Program, the charity James' team was playing for.

"He wanted the ball. We all knew that he was going to shoot it," Cleveland's Darius Garland said. "Fadeaway, you know? He wanted to win for the school. That's why he was going so hard in the fourth. That's why everybody was going hard in the fourth. Just seeing that go in, just seeing the crowd erupt in his hometown, it was cool to see."

It was a thrilling finish to an All-Star Game played again before a packed house after the 2021 game was contested in a mostly empty State Farm Arena in Atlanta, moved there because of the coronavirus pandemic after it was originally scheduled for Indianapolis.

The pregame introductions wrapped up with a thunderous roar for James, who responded with one of his own. His home fans cheered again when he did his signature pregame powder toss and he came

out aggressively with nine points to help Team LeBron win the first quarter 47-45. Then it became the Curry show.

He made six 3s for 18 points in the second quarter, though Team Durant won the period. He made seven more 3s and scored 21 in the third, when the teams played to a 45-all tie.

James defeated Curry when they were captains in 2018, the first year after the NBA did away with the traditional East against West format. Then James beat Antetokounmpo in the next two years.

Chris Paul did play — briefly — despite a right thumb injury that TNT reported would keep him out at least six weeks. Paul played with a wrap covering his thumb during his two-minute stint. The Cavaliers' two All-Stars did well, with Garland scoring 13 points and Jarrett Allen blocking Embiid's shot when the game was tied at 155. The duo played with James, Curry and Antetokounmpo during a pivotal fourth-quarter stretch.

Devin Booker scored 20 points, LaMelo Ball had 18 and Dejounte Murray 17 for Team Durant. □